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EXAMINER

NGO, HUNG V

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/735,159
Filing Date: December 12, 2003
Appellant(s): FISCHER ET AL.

R. William Beard, Jr.
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

MAILED
OCT 10 2007
GROUP 2800

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 07-05-07 appealing from the Office action mailed 11-30-06.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,178,563	Reed	01-1993
6,099,324	Janssen et al	08-2000

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-4, 11, 13-16, 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed (US 5,178,563) in view of Janssen et al (US 6099324).

Re claim 2, Reed discloses a contacting component comprising a conductor device (28) onto which a first plastic component (38) and, separately from it, a second plastic component (36) are molded (col. 5, lines 4-6), wherein the conductor device is bendable such that the first plastic component can engage the second plastic component to provide a single integral contacting component (Fig 3).

Re claim 3, wherein the first plastic component can engage in the second plastic component by means of a snap-in locking device (latch 54)(Fig 12).

Re claim 4, wherein the first plastic component in the engaged state has an angle of approximately 90° to the second plastic component (Fig 3).

Re claim 11, Reed discloses a contacting component comprising: a conductor device (28) onto which at least one first plastic component (38) and, separately from it, a second plastic component (36) are molded (col. 5, lines 4-6), said conductor device is bendable such that the first plastic component engages in the second plastic component to provide a single integral contacting component (Fig 3), the first plastic component can engage in the second plastic component by means of a

snap-in locking device (latch 54), and the first plastic component in the engaged state has an angle of approximately 90° to the second plastic component (Fig 3).

Re claim 13, Reed discloses a contacting component for manufacturing an electrical connection, said component comprising:

a conductor (28) onto which first and second plastic components (38, 36) are molded (col. 5, lines 4-6), wherein the conductor is bendable such that the first plastic component can engage the second plastic component via a snap-in locking device (latch 54) to provide a single integral contacting component,

Re claim 14, wherein the first plastic component in the engaged state has an angle of approximately 90° to the second plastic component (Fig 3).

Re claims 15, 16, wherein the first plastic component comprises a first section and a second section wherein the second section extends from the first section and has an angle of approximately 90° to the first section and said second section receives said second plastic component (Fig 3).

Re claim 18, Reed disclose a contacting component comprising:
a conductor device (28) onto which a first plastic component (38) and, separately from it, a second plastic component (36) are molded (col. 5, lines 4-6), wherein the first plastic component comprises a first section (38) and a second section (36) wherein the second section extends from the first section and has an angle of approximately 90° to the first section (Fig 3), wherein the conductor device is bendable such that the first plastic component can engage the second plastic component to provide an integral

Art Unit: 2831

contacting component (Fig 3), wherein and said second section of said first plastic component receives said second plastic component (Fig 3).

Re claim 19, wherein the first plastic component can engage in the second plastic component by means of a snap-in locking device (latch 54)(Fig 12).

The teaching as discussed above does not disclose the first plastic component and/or the second plastic component having a bending collar around which the conductor device can be bent (re claims 2, 11, 13, 18).

Janssen et al teach the use of a bending collar in a second component (44) for supporting and bending a conductor device (34) around 90 (Fig 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the bending collar with the first component or second component of Reed for the purpose of having uniform bending and supporting and conductor device around 90 degrees

Response to Arguments

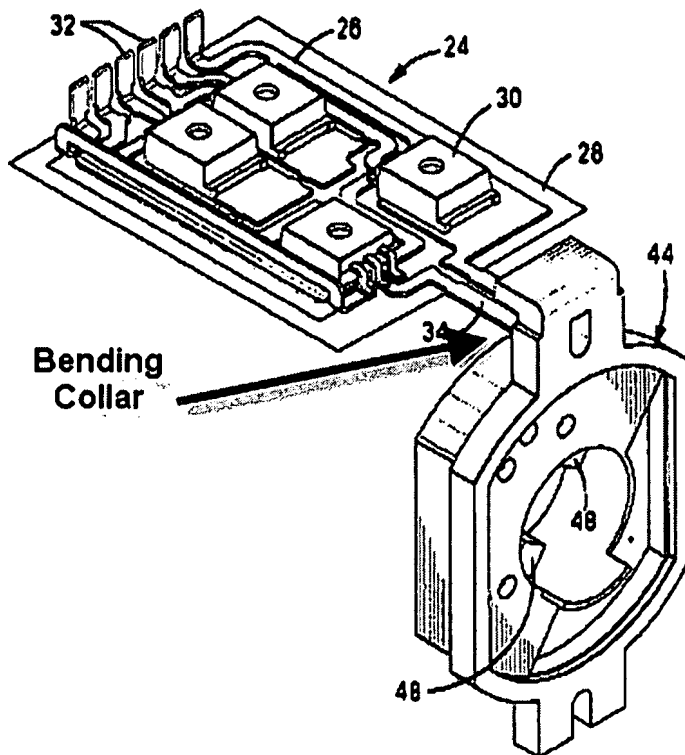
Applicant's arguments filed 07-05-07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Appellant argues (1) that both Reed and Janssen et al., individually and when combined, fail to teach or suggest a bending collar, (2) that there is no suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reed device to have a bending collar.

Art Unit: 2831

With respect to (1) Reed does not disclose the bending collar but Janssen et al teach the use of a bending collar (Figs 5, 6). Janssen et al disclose leads (34, 40) and the bending collar before bending (Fig 5) and Janssen et al disclose the bending collar and lead (34) after bending (Fig 6).

With respect to (2), the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation is found in the knowledge available to one of ordinary skill in the art to form a uniform bending and motivation to do so found the references of Janssen et al support the bending leads (Fig 5, 6).



Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 05-24-07 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Conferees:

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DR

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† a.s.

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